

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] Stripper roller 16, rotates about axis of rotation  $x'$ , which is parallel to axis of rotation  $x$  of transport cylinder 11, and is disposed adjacent to transport cylinder 11 in the region of location B. Stripper roller 16 guides a continuous path of stripper belt ~~13~~ 14 circumferentially away from the cylinder at a region of location B. This relative movement of stripper belt 14 away from transport cylinder 11 causes the flat product to be stripped from gripper 13 of transport cylinder 11 at location B. Once it is stripped, the flat product may be guided, for example, by guiding tapes, grippers, belts or other means, to the next processing device, such as, for example, a collecting cylinder.

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following amended paragraph:

[0019] The continuous path of stripper belt does not circumscribe the axis of rotation  $x$  of transport cylinder 11. Instead, belt guides 17 guide the continuous path of stripper belt 14 from a point downstream of location B back up and around shaft 12 and back into groove 15 at the circumference of transport cylinder 11 at a point upstream from location A. Thus, the direction of travel of the continuous stripper belt while being guided back around the shaft of the cylinder 11, is generally in reverse of the direction of rotation of the cylinder 11. In this embodiment, the belt guides 17 are arranged to guide the continuous path first in an axial direction the side of the rotating cylinder 11, then up and around shaft 12, back down to the circumference of cylinder 11, and finally in axially to groove 15 at the circumference of cylinder 11 at a location upstream from location A. By guiding the belt in an axial direction (i.e. parallel to  $x$ ) the distance that the belt must travel is reduced, since it does not have to go around a portion of the entire cylinder, but rather only around a portion of the shaft, making the entire continuous path of the belt somewhat shorter than it might otherwise be. Additional stripper belts 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22 (shown partially in Fig. 1) follow continuous paths around transport cylinder 11 similar to that of stripper belt 14. For reasons of clarity, and so not to obstruct the view of the complete continuous path of stripper belt 14, complete continuous paths of stripper belts 18-22 are not shown in their entirety.